

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendment, the claims will be 1 to 3.

In the above amendment, the feature of claim 5 has been incorporated in claim 1 and claim 5 has been cancelled.

Further, claim 4 has been cancelled as being outside of the scope of thus amended claim 1.

The significance of this amendment will become further apparent from the remarks below.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks or Champagne as combined with several secondary references.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is noted from Fig. 1 of Brooks that this reference teaches simultaneous illumination of a target specimen 20 with two light beams 14 and 15, of which the first beam 14 falls on the target 20 over an area (first irradiation spot) without being focused while the second light beam 15 is very sharply focused (second irradiation spot) aside the first irradiation spot.

This arrangement of the two light beams or irradiation spots is clearly distinguishable from and unsuggestive of the invention of claim 1 in which the second irradiation spot must be enveloped within the first irradiation spot (or *vice versa*).

The disclosure in Champagne is also clearly distinguishable from and unsuggestive of claim 1 because, in Fig. 2 of Champagne, the first and second light beams 56 and 70 fall on the specimen 50 (a photographic plate, not a polymeric film) over irradiation spots exactly overlapping each the other.

Accordingly, no one skilled in the art of optical information recording technology and informed of these references would be motivated to arrive at the invention of claims 1 to 3.

None of the secondary references appear to be remedial to the above discussed deficiencies in the primary references relative to the very scope of the claimed invention.

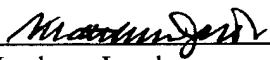
For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that rejection on prior art is untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone below.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 4, 2003

Version with Markings to
Show Changes Made

1. In a method for optical information recording by patternwise irradiating a thin film of a polymeric compound containing an azobenzene moiety, said polymeric compound having a number-average molecular weight in the range from 3,000 to 10,000, with a first light beam falling in a first irradiation spot on the polymeric thin film to effect a morphological change of the polymeric thin film, the improvement which comprises simultaneously irradiating the polymeric thin film patternwise with a second light beam of substantially the same wavelength as the first light beam falling in a second irradiation spot, the diameter of the second irradiation spot being larger than the diameter of the first irradiation spot and the second irradiation sport enveloping the first irradiation spot.